T66/989

TRI

TOXIC CHEMICAL RELEASE INVENTORY

FACT SHEET

NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

TRI DEFINED

TRI (the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory) contains information on the annual estimated releases of toxic chemicals to the environment. Based upon data collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this file is publicly accessible on the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Toxicology Data Network (TOXNET).

TRI BACKGROUND

Mandated by Title III of the SUPERFUND Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, the Inventory contains provisions for the reporting, by industry, on the releases of over 300 toxic chemicals into the air, water, and land. Data submitted to EPA include names and addresses of facilities which manufacture, process, or otherwise use these chemicals, as well as amounts released to the environment or tranferred to waste sites. Title III, also known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, calls for the EPA to collect this data nationwide on an annual basis. The Law mandates that the data be made publicly available through a computer database. The online **TRI** file should appeal to a broad based user audience including industry, state and local environmental agencies, emergency planning committees, the Federal Government, and other regulatory groups. Another important user group is likely to be concerned citizens who, on their own or through public interest groups and public libraries, can use **TRI** to ask questions about chemical releases in their communities.

TRI FILE STRUCTURE

TRI data is arranged in the following broad categories:

Facility Identification
Substance Identification
Environmental Release of Chemical
Waste Treatment
Off-Site Waste Transfer

The data include the names, addresses and public contacts of plants manufacturing, processing or using the reported chemicals, the maximum amount stored on site, the estimated quantity emitted into the air (point and non-point emissions), discharged into bodies of water, injected underground, or released to land, methods used in waste treatment and their efficiency, and data on the transfer of chemicals off-site for treatment/disposal, either to publicly owned treatment works or elsewhere.

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Bethesda, Maryland 20894

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES / Public Health Service / National Institutes of Health

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SEARCHING TRI

TRI is a component file of NLM's TOXNET system. Utilizing a free text search capability, full Boolean logic, a powerful and flexible command language and a variety of online user assistance features, TOXNET offers state-of-the-art user-friendly searching. Online and offline printing of entire or specified portions of records is available, as are a variety of customized print options. Special **TRI** features allow sorting and numerical manipulation of data. A menu-driven search package also allows novice users or individuals with limited computer skills to search **TRI** efficiently.

TRI IN ACTION

TRI users can ask such questions as:

- How much benzene was reported released to waterways in 1987 by Virginia industrial plants?
- What waste minimization methods are reported by Marin County manufacturers of toluene?
- How much chlorine gas have entire plants of Company XYZ released into the air last year throughout the country?
- What are the names and addresses of Baltimore steel plants importing lead?
- What quantity of sulfuric acid at Boston's ABC Waste Treatment Facility is transferred there from outside the State of Massachusetts?

TRI AVAILABILITY

TRI is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, except for a brief daily maintenance period.

TRI ACCESS

Registered NLM online services users are able to access **TRI** on the TOXNET system by direct dial or through various telecommunication networks including TELENET, TYMNET, or COMPUSERVE. **TRI** users also automatically have access to all TOXNET files and can access other NLM files, through the TOXNET Gateway. In addition to TRI, TOXNET contains HSDB (Hazardous Substances Data Bank), RTECS (Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances), CCRIS (Chemical Carcinogenesis Research Information System), ETICBACK (Environmental Teratology Information Center Backfile), EMIC BACK (Environmental Mutagen Information Center), and DBIR (Directory of Biotechnology Information Resources). Other NLM files, such as the TOXLINE/TOXLIT group, containing some 2.5 million references on literature related to toxic chemicals, may be used to obtain supporting information in such areas as health hazards and emergency handling of **TRI** chemicals.

TRI USER SERVICES

For further information about the **TRI** file, contact:

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